

Message Text

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R 220054Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097277

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION
ON MAAGS AND SIMILAR ADVISORY MISSIONS OVERSEAS.

REF: COPENHAGEN 1037; BRUSSELS 3132; STATE 054881;
MONROVIA 2058; SANTIAGO 3519.

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1. THIS MESSAGE IS BEING SENT TO POSTS WITH MILITARY
ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUPS, MILGROUPS AND SIMILAR MILITARY
MISSIONS CONCERNED WITH SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS (FOR
BREVITY HEREFTER REFERRED TO AS MAAGS), TO PROVIDE BACK-
GROUND ON CURRENT PLANS FOR OVERALL REDUCTIONS IN NUMBERS
OF MAAGS AND ASSIGNED PERSONNEL.

2. FY 76 SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION NOT YET PASSED

BY CONGRESS, BUT CONFERENCE REPORT INCLUDES FOLLOWING PROVISIONS REGARDING MAAGS: (1) NUMBER WILL BE LIMITED TO 34, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 1976; (2) NO MAAG MAY OPERATE IN ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1977 UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS; (3) UP TO THREE U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY BE ASSIGNED TO EACH CHIEF OF A U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO PERFORM SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS, REGARDLESS OF THE PRIOR EXISTENCE OF A MAAG IN THAT COUNTRY SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS MAY NOT BE PERFORMED BY DEFENSE

ATTACHES ASSIGNED TO U.S. MISSIONS AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1977; (5) REGULAR U.S. ARMED FORCES UNITS DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT U.S.-ALLIED PROCEDURAL AND OPERATIONAL STANDARDIZATION ARE EXCLUDED FROM DEFINITION OF MAAGS.

3. SINCE THERE ARE CURRENTLY 44 MAAGS OR SIMILAR MISSIONS WORLDWIDE WITH AUTHORIZED STRENGTH OF 1622 MILITARY PERSONNEL, REDUCTION OF 10 MISSIONS AND 222 SLOTS WILL BE REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1976, IN VIEW OF 1400 CEILING.

4. DOD HAS INDICATED INTEREST IN OBTAINING LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE TOTAL OF 31 MAAGS WITH 1400 PERSONS BEYOND OCTOBER 1, 1977. WHITE HOUSE HAS THIS PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION AND IS EXPECTED TO ESTABLISH INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP. WORKING GROUP, ONCE ORGANIZED, IS TO FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSSIBLE INCORPORATION IN SUPPLEMENTARY FY 77 LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE BEING PREPARED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.

5. FYI. SEVERAL AMBASSADORS HAVE LEARNED THROUGH THEIR MAAG CHIEFS OF DOD EFFORT (THROUGH JCS AND REGIONAL COMMANDS) TO IDENTIFY 10 MAAGS FOR ELIMINATION PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1976 DEADLINE AND HAVE EVIDENCED CONCERN
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OVER LACK OF INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION. WHILE WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED EARLIER AND MORE DIRECT NOTIFICATION BY DOD OF PLANS FOR REDUCTION, WE SHARE DOD'S SENSE OF URGENCY REGARDING NEED TO IDENTIFY MAAGS FOR TWO-PHASE REDUCTION WHICH PENDING BILL WILL REQUIRE. ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL SHORTLY INFORM CONCERNED POSTS BY CIRCULAR TELEGRAM OF DOD RECOMMENDATIONS ON FIRST-PHASE REDUCTION AND AT THAT TIME WILL PROVIDE SPECIFIC LIST OF QUESTIONS TO ELICIT POSTS' EVALUATION AND COMMENTS. THESE EVALUATIONS AND COMMENTS WILL BE IMPORTANT PART OF DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTION TO WHITE HOUSE - GENERATED WORKING GROUP STUDY.
END FYI.

6. FOR ARA AMBASSADORS: DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO YOUR MISSIONS ENGAGE IN

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL VALUE, IN ADDITION TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE. WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE CONTRIBUTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY MADE THROUGH YOUR MILGP TO THE RECENT USCINCSO STUDY, WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR VIEWS ON HOW WE SHOULD STRUCTURE OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN YOUR COUNTRY IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MOST DEFENSIBLE IN THE FACE OF STRONG CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE MILGP IN ITS PRESENT FORM AND WITH ITS PRESENT FUNCTIONS. TO BE MOST HELPFUL, DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR REPLIES BY APRIL 28. KISSINGER

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